

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments. A petition to extend the time for response by two (2) months is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended. A new dependent claim 15 depending from claim 1 has been added. Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 15 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 7 and 12 to this end. Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 USC 112 has been rendered moot and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,318,993 to Huang in view of US Patent No. 6,371,754 to Haynes or JP 59-52113. Claim 7, 10, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,318,993 to Huang in view of US Patent No 1,196,230 to Graves. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits to the contrary that the present invention, as defined in the amended claims is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any combination. The primary reference US Patent No. 6,318,993 to Huang fails to disclose the structure of the present invention giving rise to the arrangement between the base and the interior of the cooktop wherein fluid leakage between the interior of the cooktop and the surroundings of the cooktop via one of the base fingers is substantially foreclosed. US Patent No. 6,318,993 to Huang discloses a base 50 having a support wall 52 including raised legs 54. The legs 54 define intermediate openings 46 for communication with recesses that form ports 38 of the burner head. Thus, in the US Patent No. 6,318,993 to Huang arrangement, fluid in the form of gas flows between an interior of a cooktop (i.e., the central aperture 56) and the surroundings of the cooktop via the intermediate

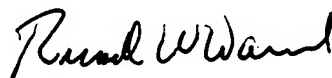
openings 46 (in communication with recesses that form ports 38 of the burner head) and this is the opposite of the present invention which forecloses such "leakage" or passage of fluid. Neither of the secondary references cures this deficiency of US Patent No. 6,318,993 to Huang and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 1 – 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 under 35 USC 103 be withdrawn.

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits to the contrary that the present invention, as defined in the amended claims is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any combination. Neither reference discloses or suggests the combination of the indexer and the sealing arrangement discussed above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 – 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 be withdrawn.

For the reasons stated above, the present claims define over the cited references and it is respectfully requested that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted



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